



August 8, 2006

**SUBJECT: Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan Update – Study Issue
Deferred from July 18, 2006****REPORT IN BRIEF**

The *Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan Update – Study Issue* was included as an agenda item for the July 18, 2006 City Council Meeting. The item was removed from the agenda due to an error in Appendix B, Municipal Code Sections Relating to Bicycles. The appendix was intended to be included as a list of Code Sections relating to bicycles, however, it inappropriately contained a legal analysis submitted by our consultant. This was outside the scope of the Plan and should not have been included; staff did not discover this discrepancy until the Monday before the City Council meeting. Appendix B of the Proposed 2006 Bicycle Plan has been revised, and is now simply a list of Municipal Code sections that relate to bicycles which was the original intent. The July 18, 2006 Report to Council No. 06-230, with a revised Attachment B *Proposed 2006 Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan*, is provided in Attachment A. The City Attorney will review the consultant's opinion regarding consistency of the Municipal Code with the California Vehicle Code and will perform an independent legal analysis. However, because this is outside of the scope of the Bicycle Plan Update, this review will be conducted separately and does not have a material effect on the update of the plan. The City Attorney will submit a separate memorandum to Council reporting on the results.

Additionally, correspondence was transmitted to the City Council by a member of the public with a number of issues/questions pertaining to the proposed Bicycle Plan. The citizen had questions regarding the Bicycle Capital Improvement Program (CIP) ranking criteria and formula. Based on this comment staff will include more information about the Bike CIP ranking process, including the ranking formulas, in the final printed version of the Plan. Staff will also clarify in the report that the CIP is a living document and will change as community conditions change, or funding opportunities arise. Staff would also like to stress that the CIP is a long range funding and programming strategy. A separate, detailed, project level, planning and engineering study will be conducted at the time a Capital Project from the CIP is undertaken.

In addition the citizen also stressed his opposition to the City's current and proposed policy of providing a comprehensive bikeway network on Sunnyvale's Collector and Arterial streets, specifically El Camino Real. Arterial and collector streets formed the focus of the study because they, by virtue of their definition

and function, are likely to have more traffic (including bicycle traffic), and hence greater need for recognizing bicycle space on the roadway. Directness of route is as critical a factor in route selection for cyclists as it is for motorists, and arterials and collectors typically provide the most direct routes. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was instrumental in developing this policy and support its continuation as part of this plan update. Staff and the BPAC are not recommending a change in this policy at this time.

Lastly, the citizen was concerned that the proposed project ranking differed from the time the Bicycle Plan was reviewed by BPAC to the time it was presented to City Council. There were changes made to the report between the BPAC review and City Council review. Some of the changes were at the request of the committee specifically, other changes were made to correct typographical errors, or to insert data that had been missing. In the case of the CIP ranking criteria, additional data was collected in the field to verify existing conditions. This slightly changed the rankings.

At this time, City Council is asked to consider the adoption of the 2006 Bicycle Plan. See RTC 06-230, Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan Update – Study Issue (Attachment A).

ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt the Negative Declaration and approve the 2006 Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan, including the updated Bicycle Capital Improvement Program, as submitted.
2. Adopt the Negative Declaration and approve the 2006 Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan with modifications to the plan and/or Bicycle Capital Improvement Program.
3. Reject the 2006 Bicycle Plan and Bicycle Capital Improvement Program and discontinue planning for a comprehensive bicycle network on Sunnyvale City streets.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the BPAC recommend Alternative #1: Adopt the 2006 Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan, including the updated Bicycle Capital Improvement Program, as submitted.

Staff and the BPAC recommend that City Council adopt the 2006 Bicycle Plan. There have been many bicycle related improvements within the last 10 years. These changes have been incorporated into the proposed 2006 Bicycle Plan. In addition, many of the goals, policies and action statements have been updated or revised in order to more effectively meet the needs of the bicycling community. Lastly, the 2000 Bicycle CIP has been updated and incorporated into the Plan.

Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

Amy Chan
City Manager

Attachments

A. RTC 06-230 - Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan Update Study Issue